

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 NRC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02

ACDA-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

OMB-01 TRSE-00 PC-01 CEQ-01 EPA-01 OES-07 DLOS-09

/153 W

-----016645 231249Z /42

R 211314Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0817

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IN, CH, UR, US, PBOR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA PUNDITS RETREAT ON HIMALAYAN  
INCIDENT

SUMMARY: BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S  
PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ON LOSS OF NUCLEAR POWERED  
DEVICE IN THE HIMALAYAS HAS STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS A  
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MOUNTING SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AIMED AT IRRITATING  
INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET PROPAGANDA APPARATUS MOVED INTO HIGH GEAR  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECENT PUBLICATION OF THE LOSS OF THE  
U.S. NUCLEAR POWERED LISTENING DEVICE IN THE HIMALAYAS.  
TASS STORIES FROM NEW YORK, NEW DELHI AND MOSCOW HIGH-

LIGHTED PUBLIC "INDIGNATION" ABOUT THE INCIDENT IN THE U.S. AND INDIA; ALLEGED THAT "DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS AND PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS" IN INDIA AS WELL AS "MOUNTAINEERS" ARE "ON THE CIA PAYROLL"; AND REPEATED WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT "CIA SOURCES FULLY CONFIRMED" PRESS REPORT ON THE LOST NUCLEAR DEVICE WHICH, "AT ANY MOMENT," CAN POLLUTE THE WATERS OF THE GANGES WITH RADIOACTIVITY.

2. ON APRIL 17, THE SAME DAY AS PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT, IZVESTIYA CARRIED A LONG SIGNED COMMENTARY ON THE INCIDENT. COMMENTARY ALLEGED THAT:

-- FOLLOWING FAILURE OF CIA SABOTEURS TO PLANT DEVICE IN HIMALAYAS CIA STAFF HEADQUARTERS DID NOT INFORM GOI THAT IT WAS LOST. "BUT THE SECRET BECAME KNOWN," COMMENTARY ASSERTS.

-- RADIOACTIVITY FROM THE DEVICE THREATENS THE GANGES, WHICH PROVIDES RELIGIOUS AND ECONOMIC SUSTENANCE TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE FROM INDIA, SRI LANKA, NEPAL AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

-- CIA HIMALAYAN ESCAPADES CAN BE TRACED TO BROOK DOLAN'S 1942 VISIT TO LHASA. THE CIA SPONSORED TIBETAN GUERRILLAS IN MUSTANG FOR MANY YEARS WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEPALI GOVERNMENT. THE NEPALI GOVERNMENT EXPelled U.S. DIPLOMAT ROCKY STONE AFTER DISCOVERING THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS SMUGGLING CHINESE

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WEAPONS TO GANGS OF SABOTEURS, AND THE GOI ORDERED USAID IN NEPAL TO CLOSE THE AID AIRFIELD. "LOCAL OBSERVERS" BELIEVE THAT THE CIA HAS PLACED PORTABLE NUCLEAR DEVICES NEAR MUSTANG THAT WILL BE PRODUCING RADIOACTIVITY FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS OR MORE.

-- AMERICAN PILOT WALCOTT, JAILED TWICE IN INDIA, WAS SEIZED WITH MAPS AND OTHER EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT HE WAS DELIVERING "CONTRABAND WEAPONS" IN THE HIMALAYAS "UNDER CIA INSTRUCTIONS."

2. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT THE "CRUDE VIOLATIONS OF INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY" IS PRECISELY WHY "COMPETENT INDIAN ORGANS" ARE DEMANDING AN IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION OF THE 1965 LOSS OF THE NUCLEAR POWERED LISTENING DEVICE IN THE HIMALAYAS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: A SUDDEN AND COMPLETE SOVIET SILENCE ON THE HIMALAYAN INCIDENT HAS FOLLOWED DESAI'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT. MOSCOW'S PROPAGANDA ORGANS WERE CLEARLY BUILDING UP TO FULL SCALE CAMPAIGN BEFORE THE STATEMENT. DESAI'S EXPLANATION HAS UNDOUBTEDLY EMBARRASSED THE SOVIETS, WHO HAVE PROBABLY CONCLUDED THAT THE RISKS INVOLVED IN CONTRADICTION THE GOI ARE GREATER THAN THE BENEFITS OF

EXPLOITING THE INCIDENT TO FAN ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, RESCUE OPERATIONS, LISTENING DEVICES  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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